MAD CAVE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PRESENTS

MORNING STAR™

$4.99

2

MORNING STAR

ANDRY DANIEL FINNEGAN
WORDIE BIRCH

MAD CAVE PRESENTS

MORNING STAR™

WRITERS

DAVID "DB" ANDRY & TIM DANIEL

ARTIST

MARCO FINNEGAN

COLORIST

JASON WORDIE

LETTERER

JUSTIN BIRCH

EDITOR

JAMES B. EMMETT

SECOND ROCKET

DESIGN BY

MAD CAVE®

Laura Chacón Founder Mark London CEO and Chief Creative Officer Mark Irwin Senior Vice President
Mike Marts EVP and Editor-in-Chief Chris Fernandez Publisher Chas! Pangburn Senior Editor
James B. Emmett Senior Editor Christina Harrington Editor Marla Eizik Editor Giovanna T. Orozco Production Manager
Miguel A. Zapata Design Director Diana Bermúdez Graphic Designer David Reyes Graphic Designer
Camilo Sánchez Graphic Designer Adriana T. Orozco Interactive Media Designer Nicolás Zea Arias Audiovisual Production
Cecilia Medina Chief Financial Officer Starlin Gonzalez Accounting Director Kurt Nelson Director of Sales
Ana Escalera Direct Market Sales Manager Keith Davidsen Director of Marketing
Allison Pond Director of Marketing Maya Lopez Marketing Manager James Faccinto Publicist
Geoffrey Lapid Sales & Marketing Specialist Frank Silva Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Pedro Herrera Shipping & Receiving Manager Stephanie Hidalgo Office Manager

Morning Star™ #2 published by Mad Cave Studios, LLC. 8838 SW 129th St. Miami, FL 33176.

© 2024 David Andry, Tim Daniel & Marco Finnegan. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, or by any means without the express written permission of David Andry, Tim Daniel & Marco Finnegan. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are the product of the author's imaginations or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satirical intent, is coincidental. Digital version.

Earlier.

CHARLIE, DO YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING NICE ABOUT YOUR FATHER? BEFORE WE... SAY GOODBYE.

COMMANDER GARRETT KNOWS HE'S NO MATCH FOR THE FIRE-BREATHING SPACE SERPENT--

ACTIVATING HIS ROCKETS HE SUDDENLY-- *VROOOM!*

JETS TO SAFETY!

PLEASE EAT, CHARLIE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MARABETH? ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO YOUR FATHER?

HOW COULD YOU?

WHAT'S THAT?

HOW COULD HE, MOM? HOW COULD HE CHOOSE JUMPING OUT OF PLANES INTO FIRES OVER HIS FAMILY?

OH, MY BABY! THAT'S NOT... IT WASN'T A CHOICE.

YOUR FATHER FELT THAT THOSE WHO COULD, ***SHOULD.*** HE HAD AN... ABILITY OTHERS ***DIDN'T.*** TO HIM, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FAIR TO THE WORLD IF HE DIDN'T USE HIS GIFTS.

THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED FOR YOU KIDS, TOO.

MARABETH, YOUR FATHER WAS ***SO*** PROUD OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE, YOUR OPEN-MINDEDNESS.

HE BELIEVED THAT YOU WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO COULD CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER.

AND CHARLIE, YOUR FATHER ***KNEW*** YOU WERE GOING TO INVENT WORLDS THAT THE REST OF US COULDN'T IMAGINE.

WE DON'T GET TO PICK WHEN WE LEAVE THIS WORLD, BUT WE CAN CHOOSE HOW WE AFFECT IT WHILE WE ARE HERE. YOUR FATHER CHOSE TO MAKE IT A MUCH BETTER PLACE IN EVERY WAY THAT HE COULD.

HE DIDN'T CHOOSE HIS JOB ***OVER*** YOU KIDS, MARABETH. HE CHOSE HIS JOB ***BECAUSE*** OF YOU.

"REMEMBER *THAT* WHEN YOU THINK OF HIM. REMEMBER THAT YOUR FATHER WOULD JUMP *INTO* FIRE TO PROTECT YOU.

"THAT'S HOW MUCH HE LOVED YOU."

"STAYING HERE ISN'T AN OPTION?"

THAT'S KINDA HOW THE ARMY WORKS. THEY DON'T REALLY GIVE YOU OPTIONS. THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM ORDERS.

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME, NATHAN GARRETT. ORDERS OR NO, YOU'D BE FIRST IN LINE TO JUMP OUT OF A PLANE INTO DANGER.

IT'S ALMOST OVER, JO. IF YOU COULD SEE... WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO PEOPLE OVER THERE. THE CRUELTY...

...WELL, YOU'D JUMP OUT OF A PLANE, TOO.

YOU THINK I COULD PASS THE PHYSICAL?

THE NAZIS WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.

HONK HONK

I GOTTA GO, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

WOW... A CANDLE. JUST WHAT EVERY GIRL WANTS. YOU KNOW I WILL PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL WHILE YOU'RE GONE, RIGHT?

THIS IS A SPECIAL CANDLE, JO. A *MAGIC* CANDLE.

OH, REALLY? WHAT'S THAT SAYING ABOUT A FOOL AND HIS MONEY?

NO, IT'S TRUE. THE ROMANI WOMAN THAT I BOUGHT IT FROM--SAID THAT IF YOU BURN IT FOR AN HOUR AFTER SUNSET EVERY NIGHT WHILE WE'RE SEPARATED, NO HARM WILL COME TO ME.

AND I'LL RETURN SAFELY TO YOU BEFORE IT BURNS ALL THE WAY DOWN.

YOU PROMISE ME, NATHAN GARRETT?

I PROMISE, MRS. GARRETT.

YOU PROMISED ME, DAMN YOU.

Now.

SIZZLE

POP

SIZZ

UNN... HUH?

NATHAN?

WHAT WAS THAT, MOM?

NOTHING HONEY, JUST WAKING UP. WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING?

I THOUGHT I'D MAKE YOU BREAKFAST IN BED. YOU KNOW... HOW... DAD USED TO WHEN WE WENT CAMPING.

THAT'S VERY SWEET, MARABETH.

YOU DOING OKAY AFTER LAST NIGHT? AFTER... SAYING GOODBYE TO YOUR FATHER?

I CAN'T...I STILL...KEEP EXPECTING HIM TO COME HOME. IT'S NOT FAIR.

I KNOW, HONEY. BUT YOU SHOULD--

NO! I DON'T...I DON'T GET ***ANYTHING*** I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET.

A ***FATHER*** TO SEE ME GRADUATE, MY ***DAD*** WALKING ME DOWN THE AISLE.

I DON'T GET A ***WHOLE LIFE*** OF HIM.

I JUST WANT HIM TO NOT BE DEAD.

ME, TOO.

BUT HE'LL BE WITH YOU ***FOREVER.*** YOU HAVE ***SO MUCH*** OF YOUR FATHER IN YOU...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK IN THE MIRROR TO SEE HIM.

REALLY? I ALWAYS THOUGHT CHARLIE WAS MORE LIKE DAD.

HA! YOUR BROTHER? HE'S A MOMMA'S BOY FOR SURE--FEET IN THE AIR, HEAD FIRMLY IN THE CLOUDS.

SPEAKING OF... WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM. I FIGURED HE WAS OFF IN HIS OWN WORLD AGAIN.

CHARLIE!

CHARLIE!

CHAR--

TINK

CHARLIE!

CHARLIE!

CHARLES DYLAN GARRETT, YOU SHOW YOURSELF *RIGHT THIS INSTANT!*

MOM?

TURN OFF THAT STOVE AND START LOOKING FOR YOUR BROTHER.

C'MON, CHARLIE. DON'T DO THIS TO ME.

DAMMIT!

SLAM

RANGER McMAHON STILL ISN'T PICKING UP. YOU HEARD HIM SAY HE'D BE THERE, RIGHT?

JUST *CALL* AND HE'LL PICK UP, *RIGHT?!*

YES, MOM.

I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO GO DOWN THERE, MARABETH.

CHECK THE CAR, CHECK THE RANGER STATION... SEE IF CHARLIE IS ANYWHERE AROUND THERE.

HE PROBABLY WENT TO LOOK AT THE HORSE AGAIN, OR PLAY "ROCKET SHIP COMMANDER" IN THE CAR.

YOU FIND HIM, YOU FIRE *ONE* SHOT. YOU GET IN TROUBLE, FIRE *TWO*, FAST AS YOU CAN, AND I'LL COME RUNNING.

FIND HIM, ONE SHOT. TROUBLE, FIRE TWO...

IT'S GOING TO BE FINE, MARABETH. CHARLIE PROBABLY HAS NO IDEA HOW WORRIED WE ARE. YOU KNOW THAT KID...

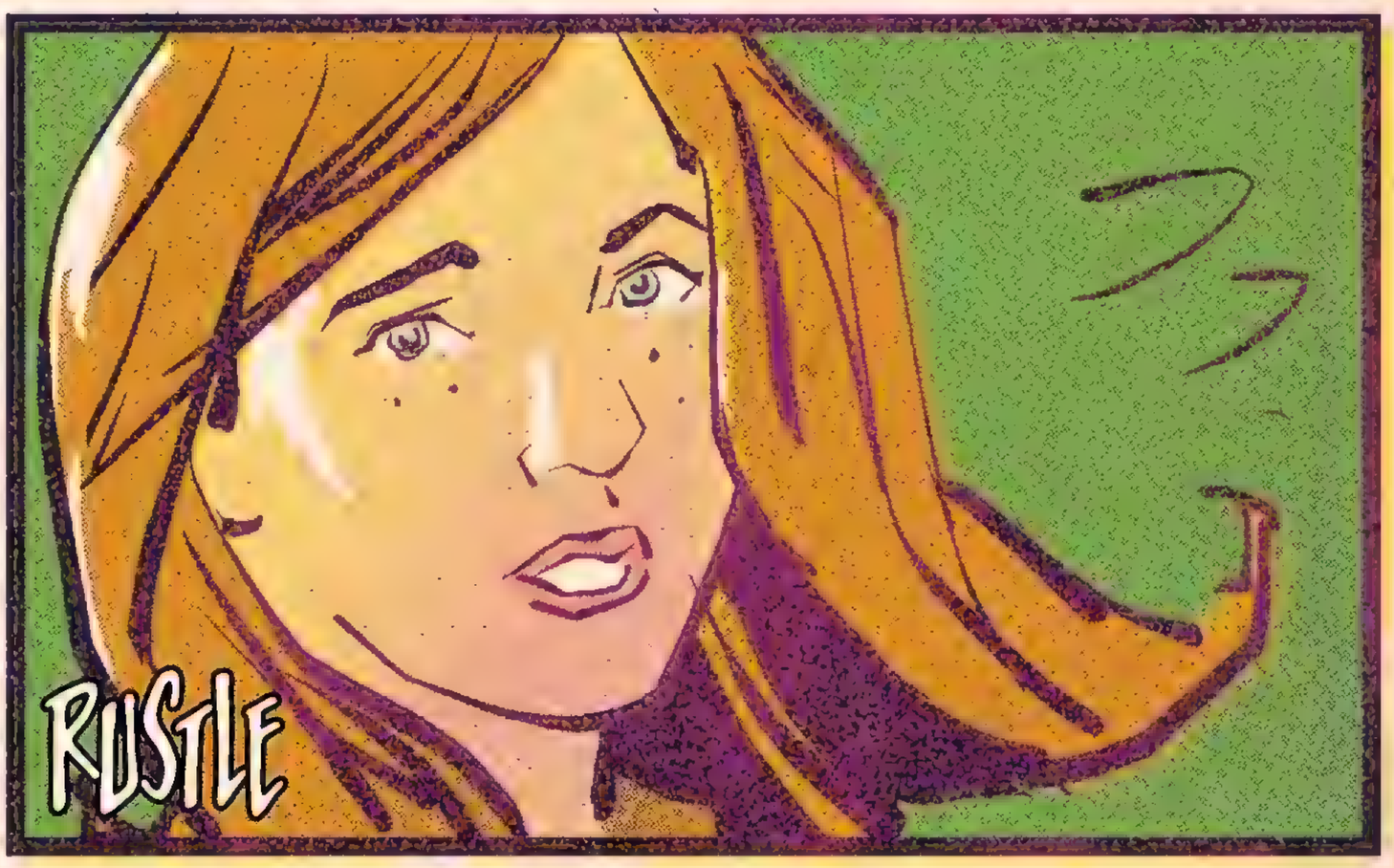
I LOVE YOU, MOM.

OH, BABY GIRL. I LOVE YOU, TOO... SO MUCH.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID-- YOU *ARE* YOUR FATHER'S DAUGHTER.

NOW GET GOING.

CHARLIE!


RUSTLE

CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP

DANG, BIG FELLA, YOU *SCARED* ME.

YOU'RE NOT CHARLIE. HAVE YOU SEEN A LITTLE KID? HELMET, GOGGLES... TOTALLY OUT OF PLACE, UNMISTAKABLY DUMB LOOKING?

WHOA! BRAVER THAN ME...

WEIRD...

CHT-CHK...
SKREEE--

--EEEEEIK...
TK... TK...

TK... TK...
TK...
KREEE

NOT WEIRD AT ALL!

To be continued...

MAD CAVE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

PRESENTS

3

MORNING STAR

MORNING STAR™

$4.99

ANDRY

DANIEL

FINNEGAN

WORDIE

BIRCH

AVAILABLE JUNE 2024

MAD CAVE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SANCTION™

01

FAWKES · FUSO · LECCE

PUNCSKUN

LENINGRAD, USSR.

JANUARY 1, 1987.

ПРАВДА

COME ON OUT OF YOUR NICE WARM CAR, DETECTIVE SMIRNOFF.

DUTY CALLS.

HOK HOK

YOU ROTTEN BASTARD.

THE HEATER DOES NOTHING, AND YOU KNOW IT. I'M AS COLD AS A CORPSE.

REALLY? WE HAPPEN TO HAVE ONE HERE FOR COMPARISON.

COME HAVE A LOOK...

OH! HE GRACES US WITH HIS HEROIC PRESENCE!

IT'S NOTHING-- ONLY A LITTLE MURDER.

"HOW MARVELOUS HE IS! IMMORTAL LOT! THE CHAIN OF LEGENDS--"

SHUT UP AND SHOW ME THE BODY.

SO CHEERFUL. HAPPY NEW YEAR?

A LITTLE DRINK? A PARTY?

=GRUNT=

WE WERE WORKING ALL NIGHT. IN THIS PISS-HOLE COLD.

AND CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, JUST AT THE END OF OUR SHIFT, ALEXEI FINDS... THIS.

DETECTIVE!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

A DEAD PROSTITUTE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?

YOU THINK I'M TAKING THIS CASE? YOU MUST BE INSANE!

UGH, THIS FUCKING WIND...

IT'S STREET TRASH. I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO.

CALL A GARBAGE MAN.

WHO WILL TAKE IT, THEN?

WHO'S STUPID ENOUGH, YOU MEAN?

LET ME GET ON THE RADIO. I HAVE JUST THE MAN.

YOU THINK I'M *STUPID?*

Кафе

YOU'VE SHORT-CHANGED ME AGAIN!

I COME IN HERE EVERY DAY, AND YOU STILL TRY TO CHEAT ME!

I WOULDN'T PUT IT THAT WAY. A SIMPLE MISTAKE.

ПРАВД

YOU THINK I WON'T NOTICE?

I NOTICE EVERYTHING. HAND IT OVER.

HERE. CHOKE ON IT, YOU GREEDY COP.

NICE. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU MAKE GOOD COFFEE.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, COMRADE.

AND TO *YOU.* SEE YOU *TOMORROW.*

Кафе

DETECTIVE DIMITROVICH, PLEASE RESPOND.

YOU HAVE A NEW ASSIGNMENT.

WHY ME?

I'M YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER, AND I SAY SO. THAT'S WHY.

BUT YOU WERE FIRST ON THE SCENE.

WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?

LOOK, I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR, BORIS.

IT'S SIMPLE. YOU COULD USE A SOLVED CASE IN YOUR FILE. JUST DON'T GET BOGGED DOWN.

YOU UNDERSTAND? FIND A MAN WHO WAS DRUNK, MAYBE LOST HIS TEMPER, AND DOESN'T REMEMBER. YES?

IN LENINGRAD, THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS.

MARKOV AND HIS PARTNER WHATS-HIS-NAME ARE WAITING FOR YOU THERE ON THE CANAL.

IT'S A SIMPLE CASE, BORIS!

JUST GET IT DONE!

GENTLEMEN'S BAR

READ THE FULL STORY IN

SANCTION #1

MAY 2024

No electricity.

No telephones.

No transportation.

MORNING STAR™

No Escape.

MAD CAVE®

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"